



New Castle Crier

The official newsletter of New Castle City

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New Castle, Delaware

December 2010

Charter change would make one consolidated voting district

At its meeting on Tuesday, December 14, the City Council will consider a resolution to enact a Charter change. The change would create one City-wide consolidated voting district.

Currently, the City Charter divides the City into four voting districts. At the same time, however, there is only one City polling place and all candidates for office run City-wide, negating the need for multiple districts.

Having four districts creates more work for election personnel at the City, County and State levels. This also translates to

greater expense, which could be reduced if the Charter change is enacted.

The change has been recommended by the City Board of Elections. If approved by

Resolution of the City Council, the measure is then forwarded to the Delaware General Assembly. Approval of the House, Senate and Governor is required.

10th Anniversary Spirit of Christmas

"Music is in the Air" Sat., Dec. 11

This year's Spirit of Christmas celebration features:

- Some of the finest music Delaware has to offer;
- Private home tours in Historic New Castle, some dating as far back as the 1700s.

This event is presented by the New Castle Presbyterian Church and the New Castle Visitors Bureau. Doors at the church's Christian Education Building open at 9:30 a.m.

Additionally, many historic homes and churches throughout the historic district of New Castle will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The homes, including

the Lesley Manor Mansion, will be open and free to the public. The day's celebration is capped off with the annual tree lighting ceremony on the Center Green at 5 p.m. (behind the Town Hall on Delaware Street).

continued on back page

Girl Scouts Serving Breakfast

It's Christmas time and a perfect way to celebrate is to attend the Girl Scouts' Community Breakfast, Saturday, December 11, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. at the New Castle United Methodist Church (510 Delaware Street). Bring your friends to share good food and company before you head out to enjoy the events of *A Spirit of Christmas!*

There will be hot drinks and plenty of pancakes and sausages for everyone! Please come out and support the Girl Scouts! Prices are Adults \$5, Children \$3.

The next
regular
City Council
meeting is 7 p.m.,
Tues., Dec. 14 at
Town Hall

IMPORTANT NOTE!

Schedule Change Recycling/Yard Waste Pickup

Wed., Dec. 22

Wed., Dec. 22

Thurs., Dec. 23

Fri., Dec. 24

Fri., Dec. 31

City-Wide Recycling Pickup

NO Yard Waste Pickup

City Offices Closed & NO Recycling Pickup

City Offices Closed & NO Recycling Pickup

City Offices Closed & NO Recycling Pickup

New Castle - The First Capital City!

Sierra Club features City projects as "success stories"

Ms. Amy Roe, a volunteer with the Sierra Club and involved with the Cool Cities program, recently visited New Castle to review what is being done with the various storm water projects being constructed. Ms. Roe was knowledgeable about these matters and was impressed with the

work being done in the City, for example improvements to the pond at Boothurst and the replacement of the Buttonwood tide gate.

She took a number of pictures and after her visit did a very nice write-up online concerning the City's undertaking. To see this, go to CoolCitiesDE.us and

click on the New Castle picture on the top of front page of the Web site.

The Cool Cities program encourages local governments to adopt energy sustainability, environmental stewardship and climate protection policies and programs.



Code Enforcement Corner

Code Enforcement helps maintain and improve the quality of life of the City of New Castle by administering an unbiased enforcement program to correct violations of City zoning, property maintenance and building codes. This includes working with residents, neighborhoods, public service agencies and other City offices.

To reach the Code Enforcement Officer, call 323-6081. Complaint forms are available at the City offices or on the City Web site at www.NewCastleCity.org.

Complaints are handled on a confidential basis. If feedback and/or updates are requested, however, a name, address and phone number need to be provided with the complaint.

This month's highlights and general reminders...

Common Property Issues:

- 1) Unregistered or inoperative motor vehicles
- 2) Parking on front lawn areas
- 3) Trash accumulation
- 4) Lawn and shrubbery maintenance
- 5) Indoor items stored outside
- 6) No displayed house numbers
- 7) Improperly stored trash/recycle containers

Time nears for candidates to file

Monday, January 3 is the first day for candidates to file to run for elected City offices. The City Election is scheduled for Saturday, April 9.

Elections will be for Mayor, Council President, four Council seats, City Treasurer and City Clerk. Various filing fees apply. Candidate filing forms are available at the City Office at 220 Delaware Street.

The last day to file to run, or withdraw, is Friday, February 25.

Spirit of Christmas

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Programs for self-guided home tours are available at the Presbyterian Church at 25 East Second Street at 9:30 a.m. The Spirit of Christmas 2010 will support Friendship House's homeless shelters.

Celebrations of Christmas and the holiday season will take place throughout New Castle, including the private homes, churches and museums open to the public and decorated for the season. The Meeting House and Christian Education Building of the 353-year-old Presbyterian Church will host musical events throughout the day. Featured will be the fine art photography of Carlo Viola.

Other events include hand bell concerts in the sanctuary at 1 and 1:30 p.m., followed by the Newark Chorale at 3 p.m. The Celtic Harp Quartet will open the day's concerts at 10 a.m. in the Meeting House.

A Santa's Secret Shop will be available for children to shop and visit with Santa at The Velocipede Bicycle Museum on Delaware Street.

The New Castle Visitors Bureau will sponsor caroling around the town, with various restaurants open throughout the day.

For more information, call the Presbyterian Church office at 328-3279, or visit:

www.NewCastlePresChurch.org
or on Facebook at: Spirit of Christmas.